(c) As per the directions of the Reserve Bank of India /Government of India, the public Sector Banks have taken various steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPAs but also to ensure recovery of NPAs. These steps include, *inter-alia*, pursuing recovery through Debt Recovery Tribunals effectively, upgradation of credit appraisal skills, preparation of documents of loan recovery policy, negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expenses, setting up of Recovery Cells at Head Offices, etc.

Settlement of accidental death claims

2029. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidental death claims of New India Assurance Company Limited linked with City Bank and UTI received by the end or December, 1999 by the Bangalore offices;

(b) the number of cases out of the above which have been settled and those which are pending; and

(c) the reasons for not settling the claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drug Trafficking in Gujarat

2030. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seizures of narcotic drugs made in Gujarat during the last three years by the Narcotics Control Bureau, year-wise;

(b) whether Ahmedabad city is turning out to be a centre for mandrake, brown sugar and charas;

(c) if so, whether it is becuase of shortage of proper intelligence staff in this region; and

(d) what steps are being taken by the Narcotics Control Bureau and Customs to check the drugs trafficking effectively in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) (a) The number of seizures of narcotic drugs made in

Gujarat during the last three years by the Narcotics Control Bureau(NCB), year-wise are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of cases
1.	1997	1
2.	1998	4
3.	1999	7

(b) There is no concrete evidence to indicate that Ahmedabad city is turning out to be a centre for mandrax, brown sugar and charas. However, owing to its proximity to Golden Crescent, Gujarat State is vulnerable to drug trafficking.

(c) There is no shortage of intelligence staff in this region. Apart from NCB, the State and Central Enforcement Agencies already deployed in the Gujarat State are fully empowered to enforce the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

(d) Significant steps taken by the Government to prevent and check drug trafficking include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, fencing with flood lighting of Indo-Pak Border, vesting of powers under the Customs Act to the Border Security Force and Coast Guards to interdict narcotic drugs. Stringent action is taken against the arrested persons under NDPS Act, 1985.

Recovery of loan from Modern Denim and Modern Syntex

2031. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Modern Denim and Modern Syntex owe crores of rupees of loan from Banks, UTI etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Financial Institutions and Banks have extended loans to different companies of Modern Group and there is a default in repaying the outstanding overdues of lenders. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions